

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Health and Human Services

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health

3b. GSA Committee No.

10766

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

03/22/2018

6. Expected Renewal Date

03/22/2020

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Presidential

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Sec. 3624 of P.L. 106-398 and Sec. 4 of EO 13179

13. Effective Date

10/30/2000

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open Meetings and Dates 17b. Closed Meetings and Dates 17c. Partially Closed Meetings and Dates 17d. Total Meetings and Dates

Purpose

Start

End

Final Vote Counts from the August ABRWH Meeting for Feeds Material Production Center SEC petition (Fernald, OH), Idaho National Laboratory SEC petition (Scoville, ID), and Grand Junction Facilities SEC petition (Grand Junction, CO); Savannah River Site SEC Petition (Aiken, SC); Work Group and Subcommittee Reports; Update on the Status of SEC Petitions; Plans for the December 2017 Advisory Board Meeting; and Advisory Board Correspondence.

10/05/2017 - 10/05/2017

NIOSH Program Update; Department of Labor Program Update; Department of Energy Program Update; SEC Petitions Update; Site Profile reviews for Pantex Plant (Amarillo, Texas), Pacific Proving Grounds (Marshall Islands), Feed Materials Production Center (Fernald, Ohio), and possibly Nevada Test Site (Mercury, Nevada); SEC petitions for: Metals and Control Corp. (1968-1997; Attleboro, Massachusetts), Los Alamos National Laboratory (1996-2005; Los Alamos, New Mexico), Idaho National Laboratory (1970-1980; Scoville, Idaho), Area IV of Santa Susanna Field Laboratory (1991-1993; Ventura County, California), Savannah River Site (1973-2007; Aiken, South Carolina), and possibly either Ames Laboratory (1971 – undetermined ending date; Ames, Iowa) or Grand Junction Facilities (1986-2010; Grand Junction, CO); and Board Work Sessions.

12/13/2017 - 12/14/2017

Work Group and Subcommittee Reports; Update on the Status of SEC Petitions; Plans for the April 2018 Advisory Board Meeting; and Advisory Board Correspondence. Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.	02/21/2018 - 02/21/2018
NIOSH Program Update; Department of Labor Program Update; Department of Energy Program Update; SEC Petitions Update; possible discussions of Site Profile reviews for Weldon Spring Plant (Weldon Spring, Missouri), Pacific Proving Grounds (Marshall Islands), and Feed Materials Production Center (Fernald, Ohio); Dose and Dose-Rate Effectiveness Factors for Low-LET Radiation; Honoring Dr. Melius; and Board Work Sessions.	04/11/2018 - 04/11/2018
Work Group and Subcommittee Reports; Update on the Status of SEC Petitions; Plans for the August 2018 Advisory Board Meeting; and Advisory Board Correspondence.	06/26/2018 - 06/26/2018
NIOSH Program Update; Department of Labor Program Update; Department of Energy Program Update; SEC Petitions Update; possible discussion of a site profile review (dose reconstruction methods for Feed Materials Production Center (Fernald, Ohio); SEC Petitions for: Sandia National Laboratory (Albuquerque, New Mexico), Metals and Controls Corporation (Attleboro, Massachusetts, Idaho National Laboratory (Scoville, Idaho), and DeSoto Facility (Los Angeles, California); continued review of dose reconstruction methods associated with estimating skin doses; and a Board Work Session. Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.	08/22/2018 - 08/23/2018
dose reconstruction cases under review from Sets 19 - 24, including Iowa Ordinance Plant, Sandia-Albuquerque, Sandia National Laboratory, Pacific Proving Grounds, for Dose Nevada Test Site, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Feeds Material Production Center Reconstruction(Fernald), Pantex, Weldon Spring, Rocky Flats Plant, W.R. Grace, Mallinckrodt Chemical Reviews] Company, and potentially other Department of Energy and Atomic Weapons Employers facilities.	03/13/2018 - 03/13/2018
dose reconstruction program quality management and assurance activities: dose reconstruction cases under review from Sets 19 - 24, including Iowa Ordinance Plant, [SubcommitteeNevada Test Site, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Feeds Material Production Center for Dose (Fernald), Pantex Plant, Rocky Flats Plant, W.R. Grace, Hanford, Savannah River Site, ReconstructionFernald, GE Evendale, Texas City Chemicals, Canoga Avenue Facility, De Soto Avenue Reviews] Facility, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Amchitka Island Nuclear Explosion Site, Oak Ridge facilities, Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, and potentially other Department of Energy and Atomic Weapons Employers facilities.	07/24/2018 - 07/24/2018
DCAS Program Evaluation Report 59 (addressing dose reconstructions at the Norton Company, Worcester MA); DCAS Report 5: Alternative Dissolution Models for Insoluble Plutonium 238; Outstanding Findings of Prior Subcommittee Reviews; and DCAS Procedures Not Yet Reviewed. Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.	11/20/2017 - 11/20/2017

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 9

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$67,000.00	\$71,000.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$925,233.00	\$942,859.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$43,447.00	\$49,188.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$27,895.00	\$39,237.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$111,784.00	\$112,922.00
18d. Total	\$1,175,359.00	\$1,215,206.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	5.05	5.05

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (ABRWH) addresses its statutory responsibilities by holding regular scheduled public meetings to provide consensus review and recommendations on the scientific validity and quality of the agency's completed radiation dose reconstructions for adjudication of cancer-related compensation claims and upon request by the Secretary, HHS; advise the Secretary on whether there is a class of employees at any DOE facility who were exposed to radiation but for whom it is not feasible to estimate their radiation dose; and on whether there is reasonable likelihood that such radiation dose may have endangered the health of members of the class.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

As required by statute, the membership of the ABRWH is made up of scientific, medical, and worker perspectives. The President appoints the members to the ABRWH.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The ABRWH was established in 2002 and currently meets 6 times annually, 3 in person and 3 by teleconference. The ABRWH has also established two subcommittees, the Subcommittee for Dose Reconstruction Reviews (2003) and the Subcommittee on Procedure Reviews (2009), which meet 6 times annually (each). The Board has established 25 Working Groups and most of these Groups meet between 1 to 3 times per year.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The ABRWH is required by statute under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) of 2000.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

The ABRWH does not have closed sessions.

21. Remarks

No reports required for this committee. Last year, in FY17, the total number of recommendations made for the life of the committee was reported at 157. However, the actual number of recommendations made in FY17 for the life of the committee should have been reported at 153 recommendations.

Designated Federal Officer

Theodore Michael Katz Public Health Analyst

Committee Members

Start

End

Occupation

Member Designation

Anderson, Henry	10/15/2009	09/30/2019	Wisconsin Division of Public Health	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Beach, M.	01/24/2007	09/30/2019	CH2M Hill Hanford Group, Inc	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Clawson, Bradley	02/07/2006	09/30/2019	Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Field, Robert	10/29/2009	09/30/2019	University of Iowa College of Public Health	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kotelchuck, David	02/29/2012	09/30/2019	Hunter College School of Health Sciences	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lemen, Richard	10/29/2009	02/01/2018	Assistant Surgeon	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lockey, James	02/07/2006	09/30/2019	University of Cincinnati	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Melius, James	08/02/2001	01/01/2018	New York State Laborers' Health and Safety Trust Fund	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Munn, Wanda	08/02/2001	05/11/2018	Richland, Washington	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Poston, John	02/07/2006	06/22/2018	Texas A&M University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Richardson, David	10/29/2009	09/30/2019	Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Roessler, Genevieve	08/02/2001	09/30/2019	Consultant, Elysian, Minnesota	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Schofield, Phillip	01/01/2007	09/30/2019	Retired	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Valerio, Carmela	02/29/2012	09/30/2019	State of New Mexico/Environment Department	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ziemer, Paul	08/02/2001	09/30/2018	Purdue University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Beach, M [Subcommittee for Dose Reconstruction Reviews]	01/27/2007	09/17/2019	CH2M Hill Hanford Group, Inc.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Clawson, Bradley [Subcommittee for Dose Reconstruction Reviews]	02/07/2006	09/30/2019	Idaho National Engineering Environmental Laboratory	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kotelchuck, David [Subcommittee for Dose Reconstruction Reviews]	01/29/2012	09/30/2019	Hunter College School of Science	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Munn, Wanda [Subcommittee for Dose Reconstruction Reviews]	08/02/2001	05/11/2018	99354	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Poston, John [Subcommittee for Dose Reconstruction Reviews]	02/07/2006	06/22/2018	Texas A&M University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Richardson, David [Subcommittee for Dose Reconstruction Reviews]	10/29/2009	09/30/2019	Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Valerio, Carmela [Subcommittee for Dose Reconstruction Reviews]	02/29/2012	09/30/2019	State New Mexico/ Environment Department	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Beach, M. [Subcommittee on Procedure Reviews]	05/12/2018	09/30/2019	Ch2M Hill Hanford Group, Inc.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Munn, Wanda [Subcommittee on Procedure Reviews]	08/02/2001	05/11/2018	Richland, Washington	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ziemer, Paul [Subcommittee on Procedure Reviews]	08/02/2001	09/30/2019	Purdue University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 25

Narrative Description

The ABRWH, through its statutory responsibilities, provides an independent review of the scientific quality and validity of the NIOSH radiation dose reconstructions for adjudication of Federal cancer-related compensation claims under Part B of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Act. The ABRWH also provides independent recommendations to the Secretary, HHS on the addition of classes of employees at nuclear weapons production and testing sites to the Special Exposure Cohort, a designation that allows for presumptive compensation for employees with cancer claims determined by DOL to be eligible members of these classes.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

Provides independent policy advice, scientific and technical peer review, and transparency for public stakeholders of a complex technical process which without the ABRWH would be difficult if not impossible for the agency to achieve.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>

Over \$10,000,000
Cost Savings Other

☐
☐

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

155

Number of Recommendations Comments

Recommendations tracked here address adding or denying the addition of classes to the Special Exposure Cohort Petitions, a statutory charge under EEOICPA. As discussed below, the Board makes other recommendations associated with its reviews of the validity and quality of dose reconstructions that cannot be tracked quantitatively. Also, the Board has made recommendations on all of the regulatory actions taken by HHS under EEOICPA.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

100%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Not Applicable

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

In 2015, the Secretary reversed the HHS decision implementing one Board recommendation (Hooker Electrochemical Corp.) two years after its implementation. In 2016, the Secretary reversed the HHS decision implementing one Board recommendation (Pantex Plant) two years after its implementation.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

By copy of correspondence and by verbal direction from the DFO/Executive Secretary to the Board.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

	Checked if Applies
Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NIOSH has made revisions to a large number of dose reconstruction procedures (site specific and generic) as a result of recommendations/peer review comments and related deliberation of Board Subcommittees and work groups. Regulations in prior years were developed based in part on Board review and comment.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

This is not a grant review committee.

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

	Checked if Applies
Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

Documents and meeting transcripts of the Board, its subcommittees and work groups are all posted on the Agency Web site, including reports and analyses produced by the

Board's technical support contractor and reports produced by NIOSH at the request of the Board.